

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 OMB-01 AID-20 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4158

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12972

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IN, US, PK

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON US ARMS POLICY
TOWARD SUBCONTINENT

REF: NEW DELHI 12865

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MEA JOINT SECRETARIES TEJA (AMERICAS) AND CHIB (PAKISTAN) SEPTEMBER 26, BOTH ASKED ABOUT SIMONS' ARTICLE AND US POLICY. POL COUNSELOR SAID HE KNEW NOTHING TO CORROBORATE THE INFORMATION IN SIMONS' STORY AND THAT US POLICY REMAINED THAT STATED MOST RECENTLY BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON BEFORE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. BOTH CHIB AND TEJA WERE FAMILIAR WITH ATHERTON'S STATEMENT. POL COUNSELOR OBSERVED THAT ON THIS, AS ON MANY FORIEGN POLICY ISSUES, THERE WERE OFTEN DIFFERING VIEWS REFLECTED WITHIN THE USG BUT THAT US POLICY WAS THAT WHICH WAS ARTICULATED BY SENIOR USG SPOKESMEN IN WASHINGTON.

2. TEJA SAID HE HAD MADE SAME ANALYSIS AND HAD INSTRUCTED MEA'S PRESS SPOKESMAN TO DEFLECT ANY QUERIES FROM THE PRESS
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ON THE SIMONS ARTICLE.

3. A REUTERS DISPATCH ON SCHLESINGER'S WEDNESDAY PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTING THAT THE "RULED OUT IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF FURTHER ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN" WAS PROMINENTLY PLAYED ON FRONT PAGES OF THE STATESMAN AND THE HINDUSTAN TIMES AND CARRIED IN A SHORTER VERSION IN MOST OTHER ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES APPEARING IN DELHI ON FRIDAY. THIS AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT THUG APPEARS TO HAVE TURNED OFF FURTHER PRESS TREATMENT OF THE SIMONS PIECE, AND NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT HAS APPEARED SO FAR EXCEPT FOR PASSING REFERENCE ("WISELY, WASHINGTON HAS DECIDED NOT TO GIVE ARMS AID...") IN A MADRAS EVENING MAIL EDITORIAL ON THURSDAY ENTITLED, "SINO-PAK COLLUSION".
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Message Attributes

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